

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference M03B171PCT/ASB	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB2005/000272	International filing date (day/month/year) 27/01/2005	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 03/02/2004
Applicant THE BOC GROUP PLC		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2005/000272

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 F04B37/14 F04B49/20 F04D15/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHEDMinimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 F04B F04D B60H H02P F04C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 244 825 B1 (SASAKI TATSUYA ET AL) 12 June 2001 (2001-06-12) column 2, line 59 - column 5, line 53; figures 1,4 -----	1-7, 12-19
A	EP 0 530 770 A (GKR) 10 March 1993 (1993-03-10) column 2, line 54 - column 3, line 29; figure 1 -----	1-5,7-9, 12-15,17
A	column 3, line 33 - column 5, line 14 -----	19
A	DE 43 18 214 A1 (LEYBOLD AG, 63450 HANAU, DE) 8 December 1994 (1994-12-08) column 2, line 24 - column 3, line 10; figure 1 -----	1-6, 12-15, 17-19
		-/-

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

9 May 2005

18/05/2005

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2005/000272

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 718 565 A (KUHN ET AL) 17 February 1998 (1998-02-17) column 2, line 61 – column 4, line 17; figure 1 -----	1,3,4, 12-14, 17-19
A	WO 99/04325 A (LEYBOLD VAKUUM GMBH; APPLIED MATERIALS; BEYER, CHRISTIAN; GREGOR, MARI) 28 January 1999 (1999-01-28) page 9, paragraph 1 – page 16, paragraph 2; figure 2 -----	1,2,5-7, 12-15, 18,19
A	EP 1 213 482 A (SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC) 12 June 2002 (2002-06-12) paragraph ‘0017! – paragraph ‘0028!; figure 1 -----	1,2,5,7, 12-15, 18,19

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2005/000272

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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			DE	59204740 D1		01-02-1996
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